

PATENT

Serial No.: 09/940,805

Docket #: 58880/278

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated decorator coupler for insertion into a bag fabricated to hold filling, comprising:
 - a hollow shaft having a non-decorative opening for receiving filling; and
 - a decorative tip extending from and integral with the hollow shaft, wherein the decorative tip has a non-circular decorative opening designed to extrude filling in a first non-cylindrical decorative shape; and, wherein the integrated decorator coupler is attachable to
means provided on an exterior of the shaft to engage a second decorative tip for
extruding filling in a second decorative shape.
2. (Currently Amended) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 1, wherein the ~~integrated decorator coupler has an externally threaded portion capable of engaging with~~
means is screw threads to engage a retaining nut.
3. (Previously presented) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 1, wherein the integrated decorator coupler tapers downwardly from the non-decorative opening to the non-circular decorative opening.
4. (Previously presented) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 1, wherein the integrated decorator coupler has a shoulder to securely seat the integrated decorator coupler in the bag.
5. (Currently Amended) A food decorating assembly comprising:
 - a flexible bag having an upper aperture and a lower aperture, the upper aperture sized to receive filling and the lower aperture sized to attach to a coupler;
 - an integrated decorator coupler ~~having~~ comprising a hollow shaft having a non-decorative opening for receiving filling and a decorative tip extending from and integral with the hollow shaft, wherein the non-circular decorative opening is designed to extrude

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filling in a first non-cylindrical decorative shape, the integrated decorator coupler positioned in the bag with the decorative tip protruding through the lower aperture of the bag; ~~wherein the integrated decorator coupler is attachable to~~

means provided on an exterior of the shaft to engage a second decorative tip for extruding filling a second decorative shape; and optionally

a retainer nut devised to secure the second decorative tip to the integrated decorator coupler.

6. (Previously presented) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, wherein the integrated decorator coupler has an externally threaded portion capable of engaging with the retaining nut.

7. (Previously presented) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, further comprising the second decorative tip attachable to the integrated decorator coupler and the retaining nut.

8. (Original) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, wherein the bag comprises plastic or fabric.

9. (Previously presented) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, wherein the flexible bag is preassembled with an integrated decorator coupler seated at the lower aperture.

10. (Original) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, wherein the flexible bag is pre-filled with filling.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of decorating food comprising:

providing filling in a flexible bag, the bag having an upper aperture sized to receive filling and a lower aperture sized to dispense filling, the bag having an integrated decorator coupler protruding through the lower aperture, the integrated decorator coupler

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comprising a hollow shaft and a decorative tip defining a non-circular decorative opening extending from and integral with the hollow shaft, the non-circular decorative opening designed to extrude filling in a first non-cylindrical decorative shape, wherein the integrated decorator coupler ~~is attachable to~~ includes means provided on an exterior of the shaft to engage a second decorative tip for extruding filling a second decorative shape; and

providing pressure on the bag to push filling through the non-circular decorative opening and onto the food.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising attaching a second decorator tip to the integrated decorator coupler, the second decorative tip ~~extruding shaped to extrude~~ filling in a decorative shape different from that made by the integrated decorator coupler.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein a retaining nut secures the second decorator tip to the integrated decorator coupler.

15. (Previously presented) The food decorating assembly of claim 5, further comprising the retaining nut.

16. (Previously presented) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 1, wherein the decorative tip includes dentate protrusions defining the non-circular decorative opening.

17. (Previously presented) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 5, wherein the decorative tip includes dentate protrusions defining the non-circular decorative opening.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the decorative tip includes dentate protrusions defining the non-circular decorative opening.

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19. (Previously presented) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 16, wherein the non-circular opening is star-shaped.

20. (Previously presented) The integrated decorator coupler of claim 17, wherein the non-circular opening is star-shaped.